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REPUBLICAN CAUCUS ELECTS GREGG TO CHAIR BUDGET COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON—Sen. Judd Gregg (R-NH) today was formally elected Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee by the Senate Republican Conference.

Gregg is the eighth senator in history to serve as Budget Chairman and the first New Hampshire Senator to fill the post.

"I intend to bring to the Budget Committee what I call 'New Hampshire values', which is that you should live within your means without raising taxes. That should be our goal," Gregg said. "I look forward to working with the President and Congress – both Republicans and Democrats - to put an aggressive budget in place that reduces the deficit, controls spending both on the discretionary and entitlement side and establishes strong budget tools for enforcing those policies."

Gregg said he intends to use the Budget Committee as a platform to energize debate on entitlement review and reform.

"We must address entitlements. We have lots of options and lots of lead time. But what we need to do is just get started. If we don't, the status quo will destroy the capacity of younger people to have a decent lifestyle because we will be taxing them so much to support these systems."

Senate Republicans sitting on the Budget Committee during the 109th Congress are Pete Domenici (NM), Charles Grassley (IA), Wayne Allard (CO), Mike Enzi (WY), Jeff Sessions (AL), Jim Bunning (KY), Mike Crapo (ID), John Ensign (NV), John Cornyn (TX), Lamar Alexander (TN) and Lindsey Graham (SC).